

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, MO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S.-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT COVERING
ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK BY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSOR

1. MOROCCAN EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDING TO COVER PROSPECTIVE SUMMER 1977 WORK AT LIXUS BY FORMER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM DIRECTOR FROELICH RAINEY. RAINEY ADVISES US THAT HE HAS WORKED OUT PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING FINANCING AND USE OF RESULTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE (BEL-ARABI) BY EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BUT MINISTER OF STATE BAHNINI HAS NOW SENT WORD TO MOROCCAN EMBASSY THAT RAINEY'S WORK MUST BE CARRIED OUT UNDER A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT.

2. RAINEY'S PREVIOUS WORK IN MOROCCO INCLUDES PRELIMINARY STUDIES IN SUMMER OF 1976 ON A UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY BASIS. THIS YEAR PROJECT WILL BE MORE ADVANCED, INVOLVING USE OF MAGNETOMETERS TO DETECT ANOMALIES IN SEARCH FOR SITE
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OF ANCIENT PHOENICIAN COLONY ALONG RIVERBED BELOW ROMAN SETTLEMENT ON HEIGHTS AT LIXUS. RAINEY'S CURRENT PLAN IS TO ARRIVE IN MOROCCO IN SECOND HALF OF JULY, AND HE WOULD ONLY STAY BEYOND BEGINNING OF 1977-78 ACADEMIC YEAR IF PRELIMINARY WORK RESULTS IN MAJOR FIND.

3. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO FACILITATE RAINEY'S WORK AS A

DESIRABLE PRIVATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE MATTER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH A MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK. PREVIOUS SIMILAR EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ON BASIS OF INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS, AND WE SEE NO NEED NOW FOR EITHER AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT OR AN AD HOC ONE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY EXPLORE WITH FONMIN AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE, AS APPROPRIATE, POSSIBILITY OF A SIMPLE NOTIFICATION BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF RAINEY'S PLANS, WHICH APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS DIRECT UNDERSTANDINGS WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE. MOROCCANS COULD SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BY RETURN NOTE. REQUEST YOUR ADVICE IF MORE DETAILED GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDINGS ARE REQUIRED. IF SO, WE BELIEVE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD AWAIT ARRIVAL OF DR. AND MRS. RAINEY LATER IN JULY, AND ALSO ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN COUNSELOR EL KASRI, WHO IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH CASE AND IS TO BE REASSIGNED TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AS OF JULY 15. PERTINENT BACKGROUND MATERIAL BEING POUCHED. CHRISTOPHER

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